

Message Text

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ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCI-06 AID-20 IO-14 ACDA-19

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R 051342Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3699

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11789

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY ON SEP 4 1974
NOW REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 2107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN IN

SUBJ: TARAPUR

REF BOMBAY 2092 AND 1913

1. I TALKED TO ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN SHAH TODAY 4TH
WHO CONFIRMED THAT HEAVY FLASHOVER OCCURRING SWITCHYARD OPERATED
BY MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY BOARD SEPT ONE WAS DUE TO ERROR BY
OPERATOR HANDLING EARTHING ROD (REFTEL).

2. AS RESULT TRIPPING, THREE COILS IN ONE TRANSFORMER AT
TARAPUR BURNED OUT NECESSITATING REPLACEMENT TRANSFORMER. THEY HAVE
A GE TRANSFORMER ON HAND AND THEY ARE IN CONTACT WITH GE REPS IN
US AS REGARDS ITS INSTALLATION. SHAH SAID THREE OF THE EIGHT GE
TRANSFORMERS HAVE BURNED OUT IN 5 YEARS OF OPERATION AND THEY
QUESTION WHETHER THIS TRANSFORMER IS OF THE RIGHT DESIGN FOR
TARAPUR. IN ANY CASE THEY ARE DISCUSSING THIS QUESTION WITH GE.

3. SHAH ESTIMATES THAT IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS TO GET
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UNIT I BACK IN OPERATION. QUITE A LOT OF WATER GOT INTO THE UNIT

AS RESULT OF THE OPERATION OF THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT. THIS INVOLVES THE SPRAYING OF THE DRY WELLS TO BRING DOWN PRESSURE AND IN UNIT I THE EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEM WAS ACTIVATED. THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS WERE SUBMERGED IN WATER AS A RESULT. ALTHOUGH WATER HAS BEEN EVACUATED FROM UNIT I ALL ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS WILL NEED BE TESTED AS WELL SAFETY VALVES, ETC. IN ANY CASE, UNLIKELY WORK CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ON UNIT IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS.

4. AS FOR UNIT II IT LESS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED (CORE COOLING SYSTEM WAS NOT ACTIVATED) AND IT ANTICIPATED IT MAY BE BACK IN OPERATION LATER IN WEEK. WHILE SHAH STATES THEY CAN MANAGE START-UP WITH TWO FUNCTIONING SRMS IT WOULD BE NICE INDEED TO HAVE THE TWO NEEDED REPLACEMENTS AS WELL AS TWO ADDITIONAL FOR BACKUP FOR BOTH UNITS. HE STRESSED THEY WOULD MANAGE AND DID NOT WISH PRESS BUT WONDERED IF I HAD HAD ANY WORD ON THE SRMS AND I SAID THAT I HAD NOT. COMMENT: IS THERE NOT A BASIS FOR CONSIDERING THE RELEASE OF AT LEAST TWO SRMS TO DAE AT THIS TIME FOR TARAPUR?

5. SHAH SAID HE PREPARED SIT DOWN ANY TIME AND DISCUSS IN DEPTH SITUATION AT TARAPUR SHOULD WE DESIRE. HE ALSO TOOK OCCASION SAY THAT IF TARAPUR REFUELING CYCLE IS TO BE MAINTAINED, NEXT FUEL SHIPMENT FROM US WILL NEED LEAVE THERE BY MID-SEPTEMBER. I INDICATED WE AWARE OF THIS.
BANE UNQUOTE
MOYNIHAN

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